

DRAWING AMENDMENTS:

Please replace the originally filed Figures 1-6 of the formal drawings filed on January 20, 2006, with the revised Figures 1-6 attached to this Amendment by way of separate sheets.

REMARKS

The Examiner's Action mailed on June 21, 2007, has been received and its contents carefully considered.

In this Amendment, Applicant has editorially amended the specification, amended claims 1-4, 6-10, 13, 19, 20, and 22, canceled claims 5, 11, 12, 14-18 and 21, and revised the various drawings. Claim 1 is the independent claim, and claims 1-4, 6-10, 13, 19, 20 and 22 remain pending in the application. For at least the following reasons, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings for various informalities. In response, submitted herewith are revised formal drawings, which are submitted to comply with all official provisions. In particular, the reference arrows shown in the original drawings have been reversed, so that the arrows now point toward the feature, rather than to the number. However, it is submitted that the original drawings are clear with respect to Figures 3 and 6, which when read in conjunction with the specification, would enable one skilled in the art to understand, make and/or use the invention. In particular, Applicant's specification clearly describes the connection and fixture device shown in Figure 3, and further fully describes how the strainer ladle is turned over, as shown in Figure 6, so that no further changes to the drawings in this regard are deemed necessary. It is requested that these objections be withdrawn. However, to assist the Examiner in understanding the claimed invention, attached to this Amendment is a model of

Applicant's multifunction ladle, which corresponds to the features recited within the claims. It is requested that this ladle be returned to the Applicant, after allowance of the application, and in this regard, a return package is likewise attached.

The Examiner has objected to the specification for various informalities. In response, the specification has been thoroughly amended to correct informalities noted during the review. It is requested that this objection be withdrawn.

The Examiner has rejected the claims as being indefinite. In response, the claims have been thoroughly amended in a manner that is believed to comply with all official provisions. It is requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

The Examiner has rejected all of the claims as being anticipated by or otherwise rendered obvious in view of various ones of the cited references. In response, claim 1 has been amended to define the multifunction ladle as having a slidable control switch which is movable to a first and a second position, which causes the strainer ladle to be either separated from the ladle body, or to be nested within the ladle body. In contrast, none of the cited references disclose or otherwise suggest a control switch that is slidable between the first and second positions, as recited by claim 1.

Moreover, Applicant's independent claim 1 further recites that the strainer ladle is invertable relative to the ladle body by turning over the strainer ladle relative to the ladle body by hand. In contrast, this feature is not disclosed or suggested by any of the cited references. It is thus submitted that Applicant's

independent claim 1 is *prima facie* patentably distinguishable over any of the cited references, either taken alone or in combination, and it is thus requested that this claim, and the claims dependent therefrom, be allowed and that these various rejections be withdrawn.

It is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Such action, and the passing of this case to issue are requested.

Should the Examiner feel that a conference would help to expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned counsel to arrange for such an interview.

Should any fee be required, the Director is hereby authorized to charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 18-0002.

Respectfully submitted,



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RHB/vm

AMENDMENT

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